Gift of three lakhs for Medical Relief.

344. **Mr. P. Krishna Menon**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the persons or authority who mooted the question of making the above said three lakhs a votable or non-votable item after the 11th Makaram at which date the question had not been considered(see 3rd series, Vol. 6 Part 3, page 185 Council Proceedings);

(b) what was the reason given, if any, for the suggestion;

(c) is it not a fact that it was made non-votable to avoid discussion of the proposals of the Chief Medical Officer in the Council;

(d) does the statement 'this year' of the Hon'ble Secretary to the Diwan at page 185 still stand good (about the spending of the amount of 3 lakhs);

(e) if so, how much of the 3 lakhs has been spent with details of expenditure;

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) The Government considered this among other points raised at the Makaram meeting of the Legislative Session of 1109.

(b) Government decided to make it non-votable since it was a special donation made in honour of the Viceregal Visit.

(c) No.

(d) No. According to the orders contained in the Diwan's Proceedings D-6-6428/09, dated 6th April 1934, the amount is proposed to be spent in three years.

(e) An expenditure of Rs. 338—7—0 has been incurred by way of establishment charges. Hitherto no other expenditure has been incurred on works as they were given on contract only recently. Part payments are, however, expected to be made before the close of the year.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—When this item was made non votable? Were there any proposals pending with the Government as to the utilisation of this money?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't quite follow.

Mr. P. Raman Menon—The Government have made this donation of three lakhs non-votable. When that was made non-votable were there any proposals pending with the Government for the utilisation of the amount?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The grant had been made and, therefore, there is the file about it in the office. I do not think that the question of making votable or non-votable has specifically risen in it and that is clear from the answer, the first two lines. "The Government considered this among other points raised at the Makaram meeting of the Legislative

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session of 1109". This question was first raised here by way of a question in the Makaram meeting and all those points raised here were noted and we considered them. This was one of the orders on that.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—My question is whether there was any proposal pending with the Government at the time for the utilisation of the amount when it was made non-votable.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The grant was made some time in Dhanu and there was a file about that grant. Nothing further had been done. No estimates had been obtained. It had not been decided to which hospital this amount should be allotted.

Mr.P. Raman Menon.—Were there any definite proposals?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not think there were any definite proposal.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it the view of the Government that all donations should be made non-votable?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That question does not arise out of the answer that is given. It is not the natural inference of the answer.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—In the answer you have said "The Government decided to make it non-votable since it was a special donation". I am asking whether in all special donations it is the intention of the Government to make it non-votable in this House?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That does not follow. That this donation was made non-votable will not be a reason why another should be made non-votable.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that you have no special reason for making it non-votable?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government have very good reason and the reasons given in the answer.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—What is non-votable? Is it the donated amount or the utilisation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is that particular item of expenditure that is non-votable. Neither is it the amount nor its utilisation.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—My question now, Sir, is whether in future all special donations given in honour of the visit of a particular body will be made non-votable?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, it is a hypothetical question. It may turn up on a future occasion.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Here it is said "since it was a special donation" made in honour of the Viceregal visit". Was it

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because it was a special donation or because it was given in honour of the Viceregal visit that it was made non-votable?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Both together.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to sub-division (c) Sir, does it not look like that?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Whether it looks like that or not, it was not the intention of the Government.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—May I know why such donations should be made non-votable?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government have absolute liberty to say that such and such item will be made votable and such and such item will be made non-votable. Government have absolute discretion in regard to this under the Regulations and rules.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the harm in spending the whole thing at a stretch?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—First and foremost it will not be possible to do that. Secondly, funds will not be available. Estimates will have to be prepared, works will have to be supervised. You cannot get the work done immediately or all on a sudden.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—How is it when a donation is made that the question of funds arises?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—According to account principles though an administrative order sanctioning the donation is made special sources for that expenditure have to be found out.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is it a paper donation?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is always so. Donations will be made; but funds will have to be found out.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—With regard to sub-division (a) "the persons or authority who mooted the question of making the above-said three lakhs a votable or non-votable item" that does not seem to have been answered. I should like to know whether there is any special officer responsible for bringing it to the notice of the Government that this item should be made non-votable?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I don't think there is any special officer responsible. This question was raised in the Makaram meeting and orders were passed declaring that non-votable only after that meeting. Several points were raised and they were noted. Action was taken on every one of those points and this was the order that we passed on that particular point.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Was there any proposal from any of the heads of departments to make this donation non-votable?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—This was passed as a result of the discussion here. It is not fair to disclose whether there was any new correspondence in regard to that between the several departments or to ask for such information.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—It is said that an expenditure of Rs. 338—7—0 was incurred. May I know in what direction?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It has been incurred by way of establishment charges.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—For what was it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—To acquire lands, to demarcate and to prepare plans and estimates.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it the lack of fund that is the reason for the Government not to spend it at a stretch?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I answered that.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim—I think you did not answer.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The difficulty is to start the work all on a sudden. They are not in the same uniform type. For example, suppose it is the reconstruction of the General Hospital. It will take months to prepare accurate estimates and plans. On the other hand, if it were an operation theatre or nurses' quarters, these works could be started and finished immediately. It is not possible to start all these works on the same day. Even sites have to be chosen and selected.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Is there any paucity of funds for this item of work?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Therefore, it is not due to any paucity of funds?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No. We have ample reserves.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know whether the discussion in the Council in the Makaram meeting did not show a unanimous desire to have the opinion of this House taken in the matter of spending this amount?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Of course, several Hon'ble Members spoke. Some questions also were put and I answered some of them. We noted all that took place in this House.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What are the results of your noting?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The orders that are passed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was not the Government able to understand the wish of the Council that this amount should be spent only after taking the opinion of the Council?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Votes were not taken. I notice that several Members spoke in favour of making it votable

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and some of the Members even proposed the appointment of a committee. All these were noted and orders were passed after considering them

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Did any Member recommend that it should be made non-votable?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I wants notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—In view of the discussion in the Council expressing a desire that it should be discussed in the Council may I know what is it that induced the Government to make it non-votable ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Member's attention is drawn to the answer to sub-division (b).

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that for a mere drawing up of a plan it takes this Government one full month ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—More than one month.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Very very sad.

Re-construction of the Chalakkal chira.

345. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) were not representations made to the Government by the inhabitants of Vadakkancheri, Kanjirakode and Chittanda villages for re-constructing the Chalakkal chira in Sy. No. 441 of the Vadakkancheri village ;

(b) were not the memorialists assured in memo D. Dis. 1952/06, dated 14th October 1931, Public Works Department, that the work would be taken up in 1108 ;

(c) has this work been actually taken on hand ; if not, why;

(d) were not further representations made in the matter through petitions dated 19th April 1934 ;

(e) what has the Government done in the matter as yet ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(a) Yes.

(b) In the memo D. Dis. 1952/06, dated 14th October 1931, the petitioners were told that the work will be considered for 1108 after a detailed investigation by the new Irrigation Assistant Engineer.

(c) No. The question of constructing a combined chira and bridge had to be dropped in view of the high cost involved.

(d) Yes.

(e) The petitioners were told that the work cannot be taken up.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—It is stated that the Chalakkal Chira and bridge will cost a large amount. May I know what the *chira* alone will cost ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—Chira alone will cost Rs. 7,500.

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